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An attractive bookcase which was recently placed on the market is of antique oak with a low casing which contains three curtained shelves and a deep space below for magazines, pamphlets, etc., besides a small corner cupboard with glass doors and shelves for curio and bric-a-brac.

Enameled center tables, highly polished in robin's egg blue and ivory pink ornamented with pink are among the latest novelties seen recently.

Brass is much used for the trimmings of tables and other furniture and is also much liked for curtain poles, andirons, and lamp stands.

In brass beds there are a number of new patterns this season. Two especially noticeable ones will recommend themselves to many. One has an upholstered seat at the foot of the bed while on the head piece of the other is attached a small bracket which holds a small shelf large enough to have medicine, a glass of water and other things required by a sick person placed thereon.

Yellow is the prevailing color this season whether for household decorations, flowers or ladies' wearing apparel.

Exquisite divan covers, pillows, mantel and easel drapes, screens, sash curtains, silk lamp shades and a score of other things too numerous to mention are all in golden yellow.

A room furnished in this color cannot help being warm and delightfully cozy and attractive.

The newest thing in table linen is the golden rod pattern. It is either woven in single stalks through the entire cloth or is in a border.

Handsome centerpieces are of fine linen lawn, hemstitched and with two or three rows of drawn work above the hem. They are embroidered in sprays of wheat and oats. A set of dollies worked in the same design often accompanies the centerpiece.

An effective fire-screen is of yellow art silk upon which is painted an artistic landscape. The frame is made of vines and branches gilded and bronzed. The bottom is square and the top rounding.

Another fire-screen has a diamond shaped center of bolting cloth and an exquisite scene is painted thereon. The frame consists of twigs and young vines knotted and intertwined so they present a very artistic appearance.

A novel and effective head rest is heart-shaped and the material used is robin's egg blue silk with bolting cloth over the front. The decorations are in water colors. Clover blossoms are scattered here and there as if carelessly dropped. Gold thread in a scroll design is arranged in an artistic design around the edge and a full puff of the silk finishes this simple head rest.

A useful and ornamental piece of furniture is the hassock or footstool. A simple yet pleasing one has a square frame with rungs like a chair. It is white enameled with trimmings of gold.

The top is covered with canvas, put on in such a manner that it bags a little. A box cushion covered in Tokio crepe is tied on at the corners with gold cord. Another stool has a round top and but three legs and somewhat resembles the old-time milking stool.

The top is covered with a piece of brocade and a glimp to match finishes the edge. These hassocks can be made at home with very little trouble or expense, but if purchased outright will be likely to cost four or five dollars.

No room is complete without one of them and it is well to have several.

A simple but attractive sofa pillow has for the foundation a round box cushion, of white figured silk, the figures being of a rosy tint. Silk fish net corresponding in color with the designs seen in the cushion covers the box part of the cushion and the effect is very pleasing.

The large, square pin-cushion is no longer fashionable and in its place has come a great variety of tiny ones. One very pretty one has a cover of satin jean embroidered in floral designs.

Another of the same material is edged with pretty lace. Ribbons of a baby blue passes through a number of buttonholes which are worked near the edge and a dainty bow is tied in each corner.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Important notice. Our readers who are either building new houses, or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions on interior decoration. As our space is necessarily limited, correspondents who do not receive a reply in this department will be replied to by mail by the Editor.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio.

Editor THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, New York City.

DEAR SIR:—I enclose plans of the ground and chamber floors of our new house, which will soon be finished. We are going to decorate and furnish it this spring, and I would be glad to have you give me a scheme of color decoration, together with any advice you care to supply, with regard to its interior decoration and furnishing.

Hoping that you can do this in an early issue of your valuable journal, I am,

Yours very truly,

MRS. E. L. MONTGOMERY.

THE HALL.

THE modern hall is quite a different affair from that which the past generation of Americans knew. It is now quite a stately apartment, and it gives dignity and value to the entire building. Hence, in its treatment elaborate ornamentation is demanded, notwithstanding the fact that rooms opening into it are themselves possessed of much ornamentation.

The hall which our correspondent asks our advice in decorating is finished in natural oak, with floor of same material. A paper has been selected for the walls that has a sort of oak or very light tan ground, with gold ornamentations. The color seems to be quite suitable for the oak woodwork. For the ceiling a color of the same kind as the walls but in a somewhat lighter tone, with light sage green and greenish ecru ornamentation, will look well. The woodwork should be paste-filled, varnished, and rubbed to an egg-shell gloss.

As to the furnishing of the hall, there are pieces of furniture here necessary, such as the hall piece and side chairs in polished oak. The apartment must always wear a welcoming aspect, as it is here your guest first lingers before entering the reception or other room to further test your hospitality. Let the guest's first impressions, therefore, be sure to be good ones. Avoid any loud or obtrusive effects here. Let everything be noble, restful, pure, exalting.

THE STAIRCASE.

A staircase may be treated simply or elaborately, depending upon the architectural character and decoration of the rooms. A small, narrow, staircase should not be elaborately decorated. If the rooms are richly decorated and furnished, let the staircase be simply decorated, and vice versa, unless printed tapestries are to be hung on the walls. Of these let there be not too many, and let those be very choice. Hair or fur rugs are in place for the floors.

The under side of the stairway in the hall can be diapered with large square panels outlined in gold lines and filled with a flat stencil in white on a blended red and buff ground. The under side of the stairway higher up may have small panels filled with light brown scrolls in gold outlines.

A SUGGESTION FOR THE NEWEL-POST.

Something always seems to be needed to break the stiff, straight lines of a staircase, and one of the most effective helps in this direction is a vase of quaint design, low set and large mouthed, in which ferns, a palm or the like may be placed. The plant may be frequently changed, if desired. At the landing let a piece of rich Japanese embroidery or other equally artistic and suitable material, say a Turkish rug, be thrown over the balustrade.

PARLOR.

The parlor, facing the south, is finished in cherry, and receives a flood of light through the wide bay-window.

The walls may be decorated with an embossed flesh pink, with floral traceries in cream and gold. The frieze may be a bower of floral traceries in gray light blue, pink, silver, with the cornice in same tints. The ceiling may be in fresco, or paper in bluish gray, with bluish gray traceries. As both parlor and drawing-room are *en suite*, the wide opening being draped with a silken portière in old rose and old blue, it is better to have the carpet of one piece, covering the floor of both apartments, and a Brussels or moquette carpet in Gobelin blue, with buff traceries, will form a correct and subdued foundation for the double color scheme.

The upholstery may be in gray, buff and blue, and the window draperies in a silk brocade of old rose and old blue, varying the pattern of the portières.

DRAWING ROOM.

The walls of this apartment are papered with an embossed, mica-surfaced pattern showing a greenish-gray ornamentation, outlined in a toned white, and presenting a quiet, refined appearance quite suitable for the room. The general color is bluish.

The woodwork is natural cherry finish, exposure southerly and easterly, and is well lighted from south and east. It adjoins the parlor, being separated by wide, sliding doors.

The ceiling may be done in light dull blue, which, being a strongly contrasting tint with that of the adjoining parlor, the effect will be excellent. Say the drawing-room ceiling is done in a light blue made of blue-black and India red, the parlor ceiling may be done in a flesh tint made of lakes, carmine, and a little blue, with some yellow. Of course the frieze in each case must agree with the ceiling.

It is best, perhaps, to have the carpet of the parlor and sitting-room alike, unless a portiere separate the two rooms, or that the sliding doors are usually shut. The color of the carpet may be a gobelin blue with buff traceries.

The upholstery may be in gray, buff, and blue. Drapery, in old blue and old rose.

THE DINING-ROOM.

This room fronts the north. It is finished in oak, with an oak wainscoting four-and-one-half feet high. A three-foot oak border also runs round the floor space. The paper selected for the walls is a red-tan.

The ceiling color may have a pale yellow ground with hand frescoed floral garlands in tones of buff and warm olive. Or an old warm olive ground with deep red and gobelin blue ornamentations. The cornice, oak, same as finish of room, or olive, deep red, and gobelin blue.

Floor space inside of border may be covered with a polychromatic Oriental rug.

Upholstery, old gold and old red. Drapery, old red.

A WHITE AND GOLD MUSIC ROOM.

This apartment is irregular of shape, and occupies a northeast corner, having a single large window looking out under a wide porch. The light is thereby modified. The floor is of polished oak, and the woodwork is in white enamel and gold. The paper selected has a creamy white ground, with delicate tracery of gold, and is thus in harmony with the general color scheme of the room. Harmony of course should, if anywhere, rule in a music room.

The room, to be sure, has a northern exposure, and some color is needed to warm it. Cream and gold will be sufficient for this purpose.

The ceiling may be done in a white which has a faint creamy tint, with ivory, pure white, and gold ornamentation. If hand ornamented, pictorial decorations of a musical character may be employed, say in corners and center-piece.

(To be concluded in our April issue.)